

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: US/JAPAN TEAM EXCHANGE IN SOLAR ENERGY

REF: TOKYO 11392; TOKYO 12142

1. WE BELIEVE SOLAR ENERGY MAY BE SIGNIFICANT AREA FOR POSSIBLE US/JAPAN ENERGY R&D COOPERATION, BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY. WE HAD HOPED THAT OCTOBER VISIT OF U.S. EXPERT TEAM WOULD PROVIDE US DETAILED INSIGHT INTO JAPANESE PROGRAM LEADING TO IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF JOINT INTEREST AND FORMULATION OF COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY TIMELY IN CONNECTION WITH NOVEMBER SPECIAL MEETING ON R&D OF IEA GOVERNING BOARD AND U.S. SUGGESTIONS THAT INITIATION OF SIGNIFICANT NEW PROJECTS BE CONSIDERED AT THAT TIME. POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT GIVES US CONCERN, THEREFORE, BOTH FROM VIEWPOINT OF TIMING AND RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT JAPANESE COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA.

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2. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED WITH SLOW

PROGRESS BEING MADE BY IEA GROUP OF EXPERTS ON SOLAR ENERGY R&D UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. K. WAKASONE OF JAPAN. THIS CONCERN SHARED BY SCHMIDT-KUESTER (FRG)V, CHAIRMAN OF IEA R&D COMMITTEE, WHO HAS OPENLY EXPRESSED HIS FRUSTRATION WITH JAPANESE. AT JUNE MEETING OF IEA R&D COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY WAKSONE WAS ACCELERATED BY R&D COMMITTEE AND NOW CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE SUBPROJECT EXPERT GROUPS LED BY DESIGNATED COUNTRIES (RAPPORTEURS) WHO ARE TO GATHER INFORMATION ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS ON COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS BY 31 OCTOBER FOR CONSIDERATION BY SOLAR EXPERT GROUP. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO IEA R&D GROUP BY 31 DECEMBER. TOPICS AND RAPPORTEURS ARE:

- A. DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR HEATING, COOLING AND HOT WATER SUPPLYING SYSTEMS: (DENMARK)
- B. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPONENTS FOR THE ABOVE SYSTEMS: (JAPAN)
- C. THERMAL PERFORMANCE TESTING OF SOLAR COLLECTORS: (GERMANY)
- D. DEVELOPMENT OF INSOLATION INSTRUMENTATION PACKAGE: (USA)
- E. INFERENCE OF INSOLATION PARAMETERS FROM EXISTING METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS: (SWEDEN)

COULD EMBASSY CONTACT WAKASONE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER EFFORT IS MOVING SATISFACTORILY AND WHETHER U.S. CAN BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE IN ASSURING TIMELY PREPARATION OF SUBSTANTIVE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM PROPOSALS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE SCI COUNS AND ERDA REP ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING REASONS FOR SLOW PROGRESS IN OBTAINING JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN ENERGY R&D COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN SOLAR FIELD. QUESTIONS SUCH AN ANALYSIS MIGHT COVER INCLUDE: ARE THERE STRONG COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN SOLAR ENERGY WHICH TEND MAKE JAPANESE RAUTIOUS RE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES? DO DETAILED U.S. PROPOSALS ON HANDLING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PATENTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (AS REFLECTED IN DRAFT GEOTHERMAL AGREEMENT) CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS? ARE THERE SPECIFIC STEPS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY U.S. TO MOVE JAPANESE TO MORE COOPERATIVE AND FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE?

4. WE ARE REVIEWING ITINERARY PROPOSED IN TOKYO 11392 AND WILL PROVIDE OUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS WELL AS PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF U.S. TEAM. KISSINGER

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